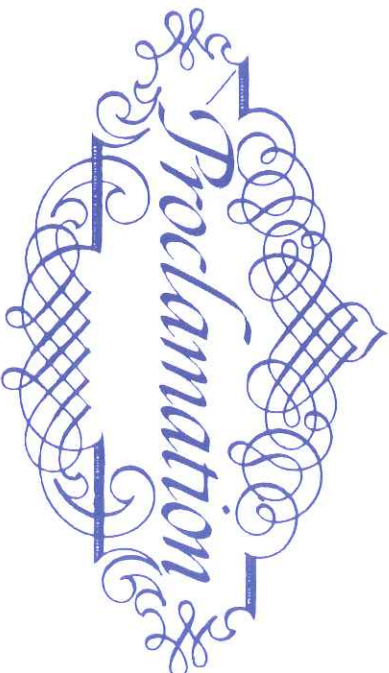


*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia is an opening in the diaphragm that allows the abdominal organs to push into the chest cavity; and

**WHEREAS**, a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia is often a life-threatening birth defect because it limits the growth of the lungs; and

**WHEREAS**, a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia occurs in every 1 in 2,000 live births in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernias account for 8% of all major congenital anomalies; and

**WHEREAS**, proactive diagnosis and appropriate management of fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernias minimizes the incidence of emergency situations, dramatically improving survival rates; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for increased public awareness of congenital diaphragmatic hernias; and

**WHEREAS**, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

**WHEREAS**, groups such as Breath of Hope, Inc. are working to promote public awareness and encourage research efforts to one day prevent or successfully treat all those diagnosed with congenital diaphragmatic hernia; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day will provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about the Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia birth defect,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Paul R. LePage, the Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim March 31<sup>st</sup> as

## **CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused  
the Great Seal of the State to be  
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand  
at Augusta this Fifth day of April  
Two Thousand Twelve.

*Paul R. LePage*  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

*Charles E. Summers, Jr.*  
Charles E. Summers, Jr.  
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY